

**RESOLUTION PROMOTING CHARACTER AND
CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION**

2002 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Sponsor: Karen W. Morgan

This joint resolution urges Utah's public elementary and secondary schools to promote character and citizenship education through emphasis on rights, responsibility, and respect.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, never before in the history of the United States and the world has there been a greater need to nurture and teach youth as they develop their notions of character and citizenship;

WHEREAS, schools can play a crucial role in facing the increasing challenge of finding common ground among those of differing cultures and attitudes;

WHEREAS, during this time of turmoil, the importance of a student's grasp of the concepts of rights, responsibility, and respect cannot be underestimated;

WHEREAS, the religious liberty clauses of the First Amendment enable Americans to find common ground for living respectfully and civilly with one another in the midst of diverse opinions;

WHEREAS, rights, including religious liberty and freedom of conscience, are basic, inalienable, and founded on the inviolable dignity of each person;

WHEREAS, character and citizenship education should emphasize that each individual is responsible to respect the rights of others and their freedom of conscience;

WHEREAS, students should understand that respecting others is crucial, that debate and disagreement are vital in a democracy, and that individuals and groups must resolve their differences and learn to live cordially with those who do not agree;

WHEREAS, respect demands that the manner in which issues are debated is just as important as the topic of dialogue, and that the heart of good citizenship is a strong commitment to the civic values that enable people to find common ground and treat one another with civility



and respect in spite of deep differences;

WHEREAS, the promotion of rights, responsibility, and respect in Utah's public schools can increase civility and good citizenship among students and spread to siblings, parents, and ultimately the entire community; and

WHEREAS, understanding rights, responsibility, and respect can bring greater peace and happiness and help prepare today's students to make a profound impact for good on the future of their communities, the nation, and the world:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges Utah's public schools to provide character and citizenship education that promotes a deep commitment to rights, responsibility, and respect and the essential role these principles play in preserving the peace and happiness of each individual.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah State Board of Education, the Utah State Office of Education, the Utah State Board of Regents, and to each public school district in Utah.

Legislative Review Note

as of 1-4-02 8:01 AM

A limited legal review of this legislation raises no obvious constitutional or statutory concerns.

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel